

### REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, and 5-28 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record. Claims 1, 12, 18, 22, and 26-28 are independent.

Claims 1-6, 12-14, 18, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,602,595 to Citta et al. Claims 7-11, 15-17, 19-21, and 23-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Citta et al.

The present invention is intended to provide improvements to systems which packetize streams of data, such as digital video cameras, by simplifying the packetizing processing.

Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus. Input means inputs variable length packet data including packet length information indicative of a packet length and encoded information data, and identification flag information for identifying the packet length information. The identification flag information is not included in the variable length packet data. Judgment means distinguishes the packet length information included in the packet data in accordance with the identification flag information, and judges the packet length of the packet data. Packet generating means generates the variable length packet data into fixed length packet data in accordance with an output of the judgment means, and transmits the fixed length packet data.

One important feature of Claim 1 is the information processing apparatus inputs variable length packet data which includes packet length information indicative of a packet length, encoded information data, and identification flag information for identifying the packet length information, wherein the identification flag information is not included in

the variable length packet data. In Applicant's Fig. 4, for example, a packetizer which receives encoded information data generates flag information and variable length packet data (PES), and a TS multiplexer 114 receives the PES and the flag information to identify the packet length information included in the PES, in accordance with the flag information to generate fixed length packet data (TS packet data).<sup>1/</sup> By virtue of Claim 1, the fixed length packet data can be generated effectively, since the packet length of the variable length packet data can be easily detected by using the flag information. This feature of Claim 1 is not taught or suggested by Citta et al.

Citta et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to an ATV/MPEG sync system. Referring to Fig. 2, an ATV signal source 10 is coupled to an MPEG video compressor 12 and to an audio compressor 14, both of which in turn supply an MPEG transport multiplexer 16. The transport multiplexer 16 is also supplied with the output of an auxiliary data source 13. The outputs of MPEG video compressor 12 and audio compressor 14 are packetized elementary streams (PES) of variable length packets of compressed video and audio data complete with their own headers and synchronizing information. In the MPEG transport multiplexer 16, the PES signals and auxiliary data are formatted into fixed length MPEG data transport packets of 188 bytes, including a 4 byte header having a 1 byte MPEG sync. The multiplexed compressed MPEG transport signals are supplied to a block 18 labeled MPEG sync byte remover where the MPEG sync byte is removed from each MPEG transport packet. In this regard, it will be appreciated that the

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<sup>1/</sup>It is of course to be understood that the references to various portions of the present application are by way of illustration and example only, and that the claims are not limited by the details shown in the portions referred to.

functions of blocks 16 and 18 may be combined to directly produce the 187 byte packets developed at the output of MPEG sync byte remover 18.

The output of block 18 is applied to block 20, which includes a symbol encoder, an R-S encoder, an interleaver, and a randomizer, where the compressed data is encoded and processed as multilevel symbols (depending upon the VSB mode) and applied to a multiplexer 24. The R-S encoder adds 20 R-S error correction bytes to each transport packet which therefore comprises 207 bytes ( $188-1+20$ ). A sync generator 22 adds data segment sync (DSS) and field sync (FS) to the encoded symbols for providing an output at multiplexer 24. This output is then applied to a block 26 where a pilot (DC offset) is inserted. The output of pilot inserter 26 is coupled to a VSB modulator 28 and that in turn is coupled to an RF upconverter 30 for transmission of the signal. The VSB transmission is of a suppressed carrier form, with the pilot being inserted at the frequency of the suppressed carrier.

Thus, Citta et al. discusses conversion from TS packet data of an MPEG system to data of an ATV system format (see Fig. 2). Specifically, Citta et al. discusses generating a TS packet using a conventional MPEG system 16 (see column 2, lines 50-62). Such generation of the TS packet (a fixed length), however, fails to teach or suggest generating flag information as recited in Claim 1.

In addition, Citta et al. discusses removing a sync byte from the TS packet (fixed length) to generate the data of the ATV system format (fixed length). Such a sync byte again does not suggest the flag information recited in Claim 1.

Applicant submits that nothing in Citta et al. would teach or suggest inputting variable length packet data which includes packet length information indicative

of a packet length, encoded information data, and identification flag information for identifying the packet length information, where the identification flag information is not included in the variable length packet data, as recited in Claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over Citta et al.

Independent Claims 12 and 26 each include a similar feature to that discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 12 and 26 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

Claim 18 is directed to an information processing apparatus comprising first generating means for generating variable length packet data including encoded information data, and second generating means for generating and transmitting first fixed length packet data from the variable length packet data generated by the first generating means. The apparatus also comprises generating means for generating clock reference information for use in a time reference during decoding of the encoded information data. The second generating means generates second fixed length packet data including the clock reference information and transmits the second fixed length packet data within a predetermined time interval, and transmits the second fixed length packet data when there is no effective first fixed length packet data.

One important feature of Claim 18 is that the information processing apparatus generates first fixed length packet data from variable length packet data and also generates second fixed length packet data including clock reference information to transmit the second fixed length packet data within a predetermined time interval and when there is

no effective first fixed length packet data (see Fig. 8). For example, the apparatus of Claim 18 can transmit a Program Clock Reference (PCR) using a time period during which there is no TS packet to be transmitted, in addition to transmission thereof in the predetermined time period.

This feature is not taught or suggested by Citta et al. Applicant has found nothing in Citta et al. that would teach or suggest transmitting second fixed length packet data when there is no effective first fixed length packet data.

For at least these reasons, Claim 18 is believed to be clearly allowable over Citta et al.

Independent Claims 22, 27, and 28 each include the same feature of transmitting second fixed length packet data when there is no effective first fixed length packet data as discussed above in connection with Claim 18. Accordingly, Claims 22, 27, and 28 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 18.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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